

# A Method for Verifying Indicators of Journal Quality

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IUPUI University Library

Center for Digital Scholarship

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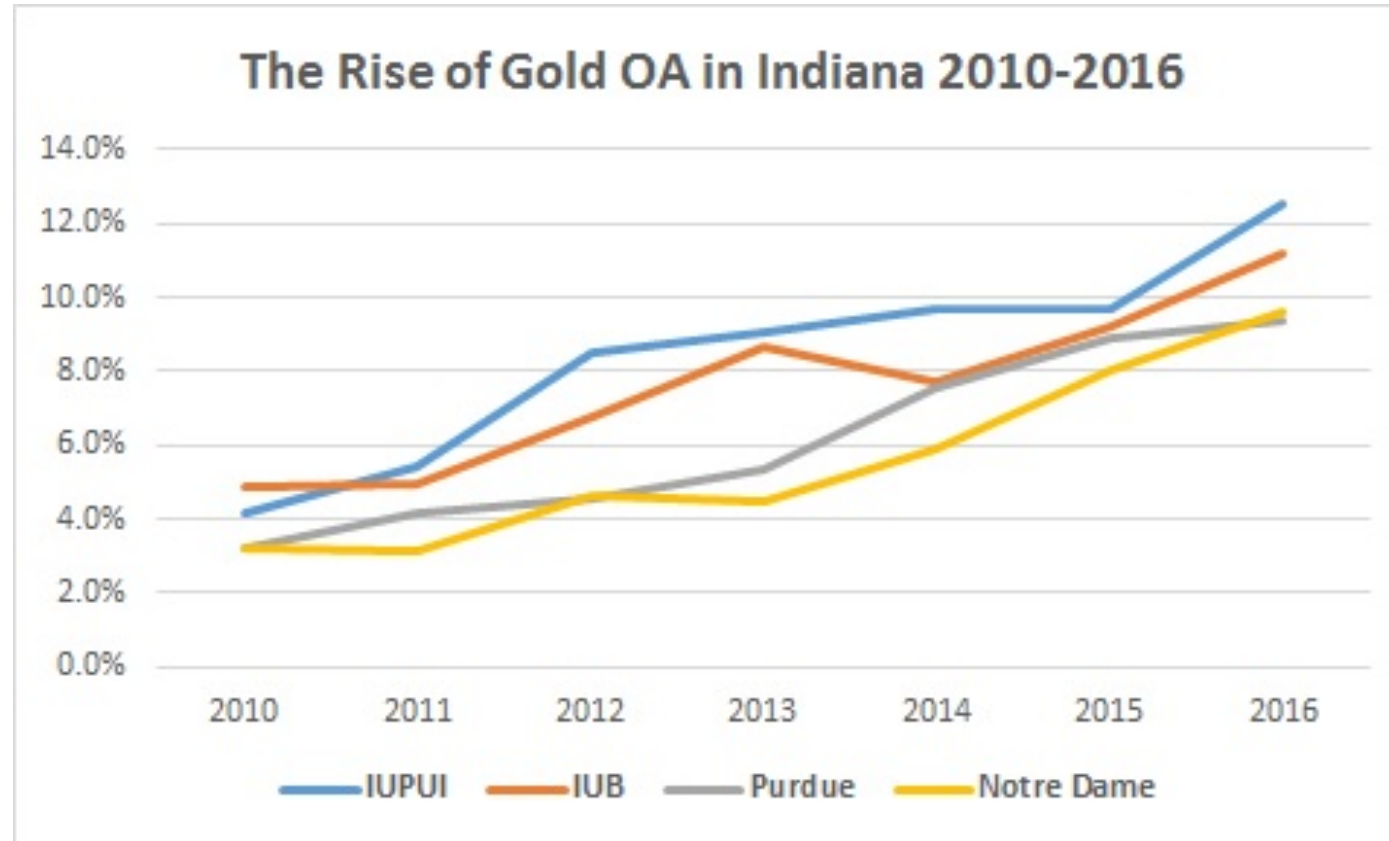


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# Outline

- Project Context
  - “Predatory” OA?
  - Dishonest APC journals at IUPUI?
  - Data analysis tasks at IUPUI University Library
- The Details: Digital Measures + Open Refine + R + APIs
- The Results
- What’s next for this project?

# IUPUI Leads Indiana in the Publication of Articles in Legitimate OA journals



Odell, J. (2016, October 27). Gold Open Access on the Rise: IUPUI Leads Indiana in OA Articles. IUPUI University Library Center for Digital Scholarship News. Retrieved January 20, 2018, from <https://ulib.iupui.edu/digitalscholarship/blog/gold-open-access-rise-iupui-leads-indiana-oa-articles>

# But what about the “predatory” journals?

**The New York Times**

## ***Many Academics Are Eager to Publish in Worthless Journals***



Eduardo Luzzatti

By **Gina Kolata** Oct. 30, 2017

Kolata, G. (2017, October 30). Many Academics Are Eager to Publish in Worthless Journals. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/30/science/predatory-journals-academics.html>



# Yes, “worthless” journals are a problem, but ...

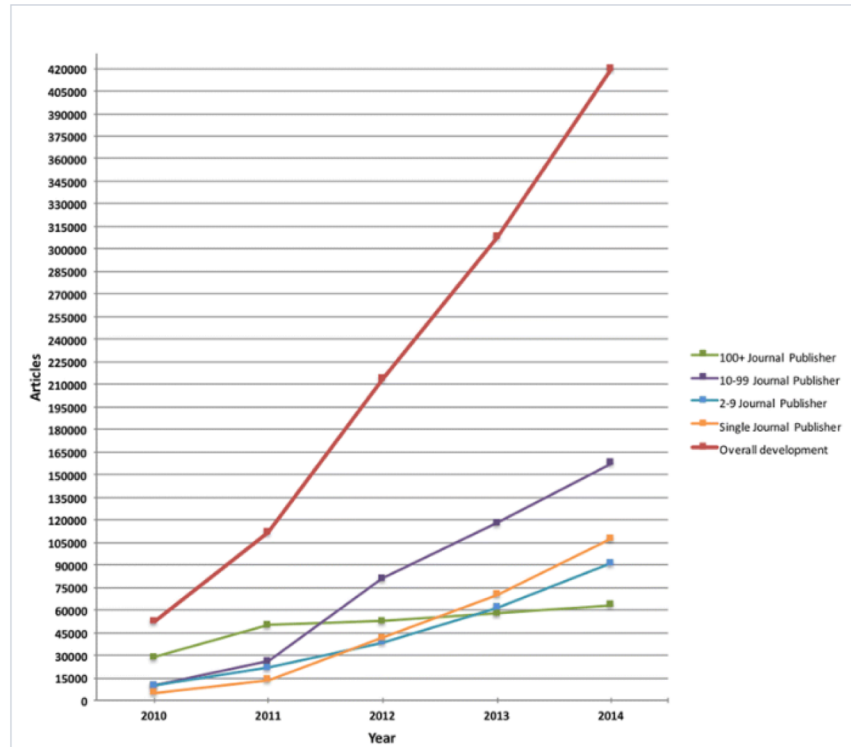


Fig. 3  
The development of predatory open access article volumes from 2010 to 2014

Shen and Bjork, 2015



Bohannon, 2013

... part of the problem is: we don't know what we're talking about.



Image "credits"

<https://www.nature.com/news/investigating-journals-the-dark-side-of-publishing-1.12666>  
<https://www.nature.com/news/stop-this-waste-of-people-animals-and-money-1.22554>  
<https://www.ourwindsor.ca/opinion-story/7584847-to-catch-a-predator-be-wary-of-journals-that-publish-bad-science/>  
<https://revistasquisa.fapesp.br/en/2017/05/16/the-danger-of-publishing-in-predatory-journals/>  
<https://blog.taonline.net/2014/08/beware-of-spam-email-from-predatory-journal-publishers/>  
<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/blog/how-should-we-treat-those-taken-predatory-journals>  
<https://www.enago.com/academy/identifying-predatory-journals-using-evidence-based-characteristics/>  
<https://www.the-scientist.com/opinion/opinion-pay-to-play-publishing-34875>  
<https://www.nature.com/news/open-access-the-true-cost-of-science-publishing-1.12676>  
<https://lib.uwc.ac.za/index.php/55-general/247-how-to-spot-a-predatory-journal.html>  
<https://www.universityaffairs.ca/opinion/in-my-opinion/what-does-the-new-tri-agency-open-access-policy-mean-for-researchers/>  
<https://www.observatorbioetica.org/2015/06/predatory-journals-is-one-important-issue-in-scientific-ethics/8730>

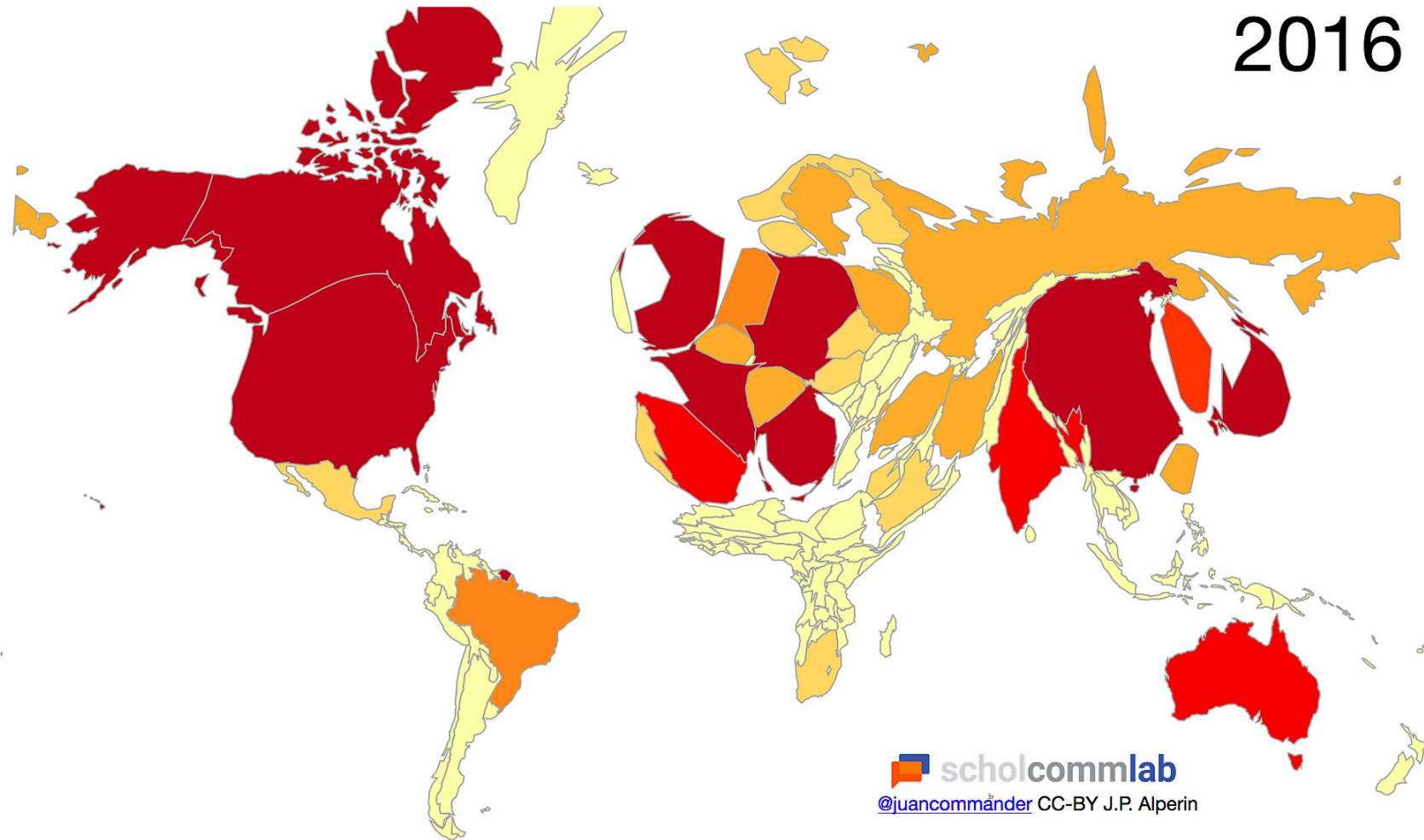
“SciELO and Redalcy aggregate scholarly content but do a poor job of distributing it or increasing its visibility, despite the fact that both services are open-access. **Many North American scholars have never even heard** of these meta-publishers or the journals they aggregate. Their content is largely hidden, **the neighborhood remote and unfamiliar.**”

“Thus, **commercial publisher platforms are nice neighborhoods** for scholarly publications. On the other hand, **some open-access platforms are more like publication favelas.**” J.B.

<https://blog.scielo.org/en/2015/08/02/motion-to-repudiate-mr-jeffrey-bealls-classist-attack-on-scielo/>

# Xenophobic Turf Battle?

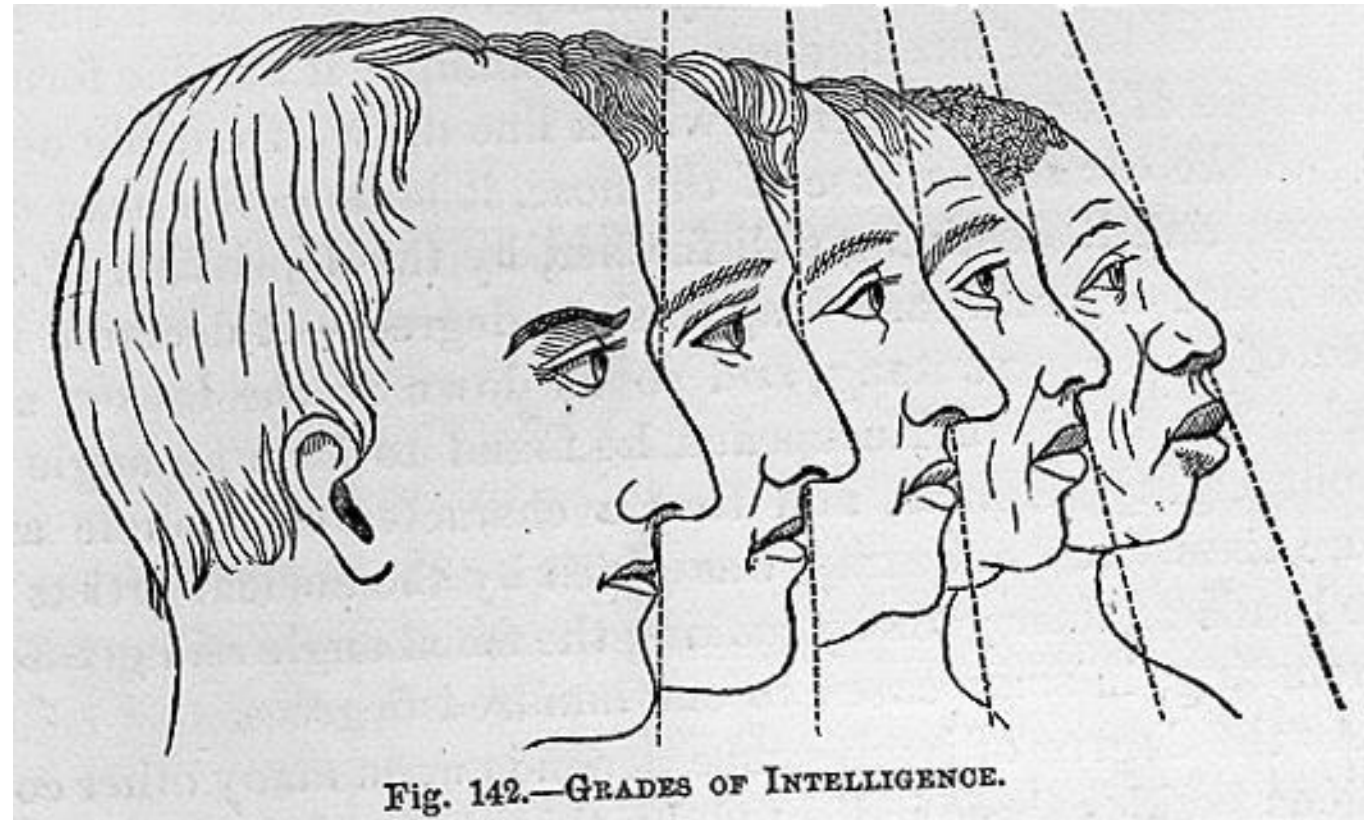
World scaled by number of documents with authors from each country in Web of Science



<https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.7064771.v1>



# Evidence-based decisions?



Samuel R. Wells. *New Physiognomy Or Signs of Character As Manifested Through Temperament and External Forms and Especially in the Human Face Divine*, 1871.  
Image retrieved from: <http://scalar.usc.edu/works/measuring-prejudice/repercussions-of-phrenology-today>

But a scam is a scam.  
And it might be a big one.

420,000 articles in 2014 – sample of 613 journals on B.'s list  
\$74 million  
(Shen and Bjork, 2015)

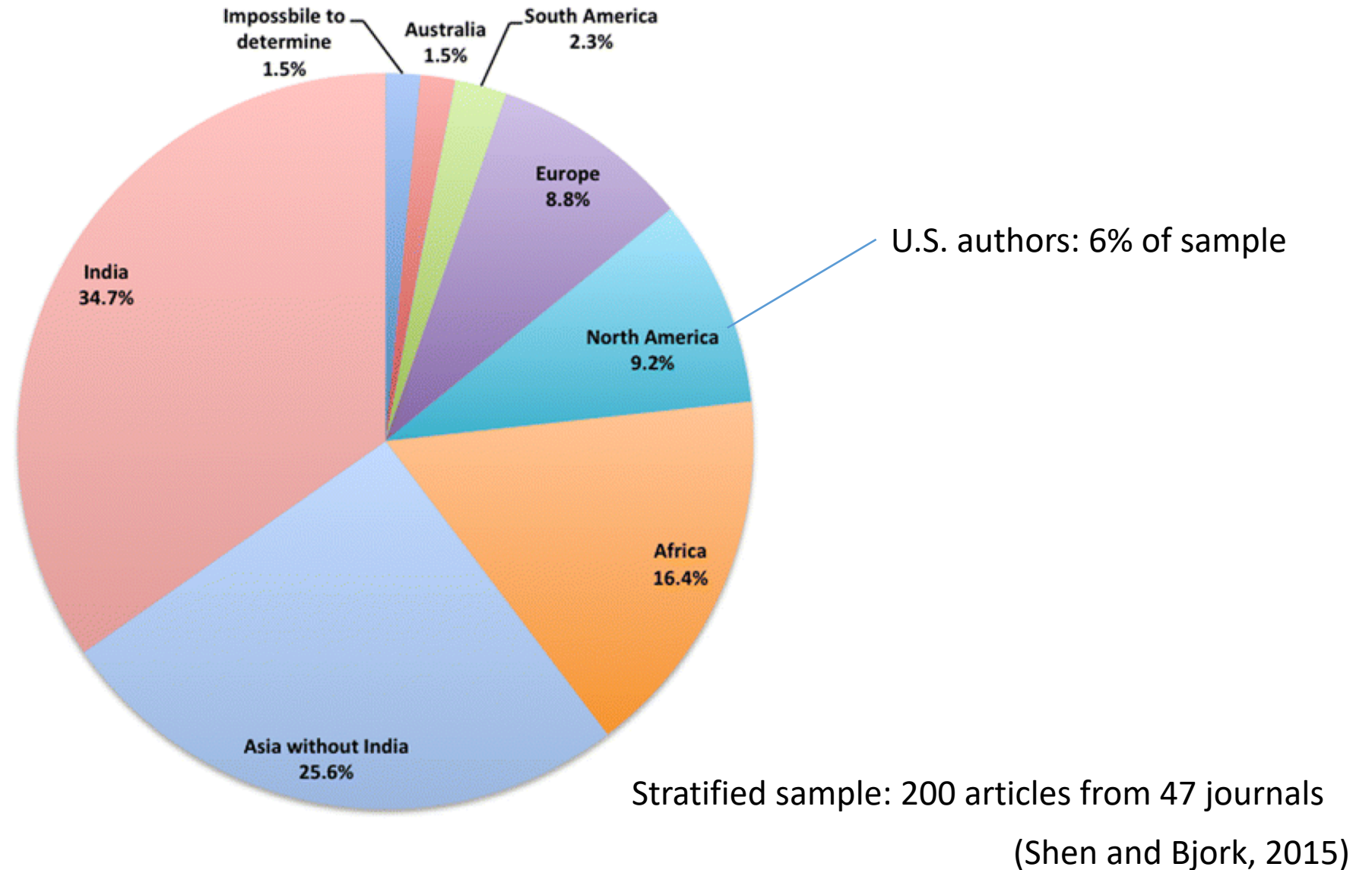
- OR -

135,000 articles in 2014 – sample of 655 journals on B.'s list (Crawford, 2015)  
\$32 million

(assuming 2.5 million articles per year ... probably under counting)

**5% - 15% of global production in disreputable journals**

# Who writes these articles?



# Who writes these articles?

NATURE | COMMENT



## Stop this waste of people, animals and money

David Moher, Larissa Shamseer, Kelly D. Cobey, Manoj M. Lalu, James Galipeau, Marc T. Avey, Nadera Ahmadzai, Mostafa Alabousi, Pauline Barbeau, Andrew Beck, Raymond Daniel, Robert Frank, Mona Ghannad, Candyce Hamel, Mona Hersi, Brian Hutton, Inga Isupov, Trevor A. McGrath, Matthew D. F. McInnes, Matthew J. Page, Misty Pratt, Kusala Pussegoda, Beverley Shea, Anubhav Srivastava, Adrienne Stevens  
+ *et al.*

06 September 2017

### GLOBAL PREDATION

A sample of 1,907 papers in more than 200 supposed predatory journals found that most of the articles come from India. Surprisingly, however, more than half of the papers have authors from higher-income or upper-middle-income countries.

**India:** 27% of sample (> 10% of national output; Scopus)

**USA:** 15% of sample (< 1% of national output; Scopus)

But, of course, most of these journals are not indexed in Scopus



# Why do authors submit to fraudulent journals?

71% of respondents

**unaware that the journal could not be trusted**

Sample: 96 authors

(61% published in a journal from their country)

“I sent my paper to that journal because I checked its editorial pages and I found [that its] editors [were] from India. Since I am also from India, I thought this journal would *understand my paper more and decide accordingly.*”

(Kurt, 2018)

# Authors from non-Western countries may be justified in their suspicions

“manuscripts were more likely to be accepted when reviewed by at least one gatekeeper with the same national affiliation as the corresponding author. Our results indicated that homogeneity between author and gatekeeper gender and nationality is associated with the outcomes of scientific peer review.”

Murray, D., Siler, K., Larivière, V., Chan, W. M., Collings, A. M., Raymond, J., & Sugimoto, C. R. (2018). Gender and international diversity improves equity in peer review. *BioRxiv*, 400515. <https://doi.org/10.1101/400515>

# Conundrum

1) How can we best advise authors and others in our universities, while not reinforcing a broken value system that favors wealthy?

Short-term/local interests – vs – long-term/global well-being

2) If, reluctantly, we're going to reinforce a broken value system, is there some way that we can do so without relying on subjective and/or prejudiced measures?

But do we have a problem at IUPUI?



# IUPUI Articles in “Predatory” Journals?

Moher, D., et al. (2017). Stop this waste of people, animals and money. *Nature News*, 549(7670), 23.  
<https://doi.org/10.1038/549023a>

Sample size: 1,907 articles in 200 journals

$IUPUI = 0$



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## FTC Halts the Deceptive Practices of Academic Journal Publishers

**Operation made false claims and hid publishing fees, agency alleges**



FTC, 2017

IUPUI articles = 6  
(about 1 per year)

5 corresponding authors  
(4 with tenure at date of publication)

# IUPUI OA Fund Requests (Oct 2013-March 2018)

Total Requests for Support: 176

Requests Denied for Journal Quality: 3 (2%)

*(OA Journal not included in the DOAJ)*


2 = Oncotarget (<http://www.oncotarget.com>)

[Indexed in Web of Science 2017; IF 5.8]

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1 = International Journal of Emerging Technology and Advanced Engineering (<http://www.ijetae.com/>)


# Digital Measures Activity Insight – IUPUI 2017 (did not include IU School of Medicine)


 INDIANA UNIVERSITY


Activities

Reports

?





 Digital Measures

Odell, Jere (jdodell)

Author

Rapid Reports

PasteBoard

< Edit Publications/Scholarship of Discovery +Add

Cancel

Save

Save + Add Another

Journal Name

Publisher/Proceedings Publisher

City and State of Journal/Publisher

Country of Journal/Publisher

Volume

Issue Number/Edition

Page Numbers

Number of Pages

Web Address

Date Submitted

Date Accepted

Date Published

Digital Object Identifier (DOI)





**Choose the right journal for your research**

- Do you or your colleagues know the journal?
- Can you easily identify and contact the publisher?
- Is the journal clear about the type of peer review it uses?
- Are articles indexed in services that you use?
- Is it clear what fees will be charged?
- Do you recognise the editorial board?
- Is the publisher a member of a recognized industry initiative? (DOAJ, OASPA, COPE, AJOL, etc)

<http://thinkchecksubmit.org/>

# Verifiable Characteristics of Disreputable APC Journals

## Filters

- **Not indexed** by the DOAJ: <https://doaj.org/>
- **Not affiliated** with a scholarly society or university

## Faults

- The journal makes **false claims** about indexing in PubMed, DOAJ, etc.
- The journal makes **false claims** about affiliation with a scholarly society or university
- The journal makes **false claims** about location of publication (e.g., title says “American” but it is published in Nigeria)

# Preparing the Data for Analysis – 1/4

- Entries in DMAI for “Publications / Scholarship of Discovery”: **2,882**
  - (Note: IU School of Medicine did not use DMAI in 2017)
- **Excluded entries by type:**
  - Article, non-peer review
  - Book Chapters
  - Book Reviews
  - Books
  - “Other”
  - Textbook
  - \_blank\_
- **Excluded entries by status:**
  - Accepted
  - Not accepted
  - Submitted
  - Resubmitted
  - Under revision

# Preparing the Data for Analysis – 2/4

- Separated and created a new data set for “Conference proceedings”: **351 items**
- Excluded:
  - Presentations without published conference paper
  - Abstracts
  - Posters
  - Duplicate entries (by title)
  - Items published prior to 2017
- Eligible Conference Proceeding Items: **157 items**
- Retained data set for hand coding

# Preparing the Data for Analysis – 3/4

- Duplicates result when co-authors enter the same item with different metadata (differences: author order, journal name, title)
- Removed duplicate entries from article data set by:
  - Title (inaccuracy in title entries made this difficult)
  - DOI (of this data set **56% of entries included author-supplied DOI**)
  - Retained entry of:
    - Corresponding author  
-- or, if no IUPUI corresponding --
    - Author with most complete metadata
- Total eligible items: **1,101** (944 articles + 157 conference papers)

# Preparing the Data for Analysis – 4/4

## Controlled Journal Name using OpenRefine's Facet function

(Articles Only: 944 articles; ~703 unique journals)

945 rows

Show as: [rows](#) [records](#) Show: [5](#) [10](#) [25](#) [50](#) rows

s part of [Journal Name](#) [Publisher/Proc](#) [City and State o](#) [Volume](#) [Issue Number/E](#) [Page Numbers](#) [Number of Page](#) [Web Address](#) [Date Submitted](#) [Date Accepted](#) [Date Publi](#)

Academic  
Emergency  
Medicine Education  
and Training

Academy of  
Management  
Journal

ACM Transactions  
on Internet  
Technology (TOIT)

ACRN Oxford  
Journal of Finance  
and Risk  
Perspectives

1 126-131 2017

June 5, 2017

May 2, 2017

November 2017

### Cluster & Edit column "Journal Name"

This feature helps you find groups of different cell values that might be alternative representations of the same thing. For example, the two strings "New York" and "new york" are very likely to refer to the same concept and just have capitalization differences, and "Gödel" and "Godel" probably refer to the same person. [Find out more ...](#)

Method [key collision](#) Keying Function [fingerprint](#) 32 clusters found

Cluster Size	Row Count	Values in Cluster	Merge?	New Cell Value
4	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>PLoS ONE (2 rows)</li><li>PLoS one (2 rows)</li><li>PLOS One (1 rows)</li><li>PLoS One (1 rows)</li></ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PLoS ONE
2	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Journal of Endodontics (4 rows)</li><li>Journal of endodontics (1 rows)</li></ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Journal of Endodontics
2	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>ONCOLOGY NURSING FORUM (3 rows)</li><li>Oncology nursing forum (1 rows)</li></ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ONCOLOGY NURSING FORUM
2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>SEX ROLES (1 rows)</li><li>Sex Roles (1 rows)</li></ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SEX ROLES
2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>College &amp; Research Libraries (1 rows)</li><li>College &amp; Research Libraries (1 rows)</li></ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	College & Research Libraries
2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Health Psychology (1 rows)</li><li>Psychology &amp; health (1 rows)</li></ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Health Psychology

Select All Unselect All

Export Clusters Merge Selected & Re-Cluster Merge Selected & Close Close

# Choices in Cluster

2 — 4

# Rows in Cluster

2 — 10

Average Length of Choices

6 — 58

Length Variance of Choices

0 — 2

# Our Approach

- Looking for scalable way to reduce the labor involved in assessing the quality of venues for faculty research
- Increasing availability of faculty publication data through faculty reporting and research profiling systems
- Use the SHERPA/RoMEO and DOAJ APIs to supplement faculty reporting data to speed up decision-making

# The Data

- We obtained data from faculty reporting system
- Data were predictably messy, but we had *title of contribution* and *journal title* consistently – occasionally faculty entered the *ISSN*
- What is needed to help assess journal quality:
  - Publisher
  - Indexed in DOAJ?



# Pre-processing

- Journal titles were normalized using OpenRefine (<http://openrefine.org/>)
- Bare minimum data needed for this process:

<i>unique_ID</i>	<i>title_of_contribution</i>	<i>normalized_journal_title</i>

- Format journal title as SHERPA/RoMEO API query in Excel:

<http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/api29.php?jtitle=Academic%20Emergency%20Medicine%20Education%20and%20Training&qtype=exact>

# Processing

- Load the data into RStudio (<https://www.rstudio.com/>)
- R packages used:
  - dplyr <sup>1</sup>
  - httr <sup>2</sup>
  - magrittr <sup>3</sup>
  - XML <sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Hadley Wickham, Romain François, Lionel Henry and Kirill Müller (2018). dplyr: A Grammar of Data Manipulation. R package version 0.7.5. <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=dplyr>

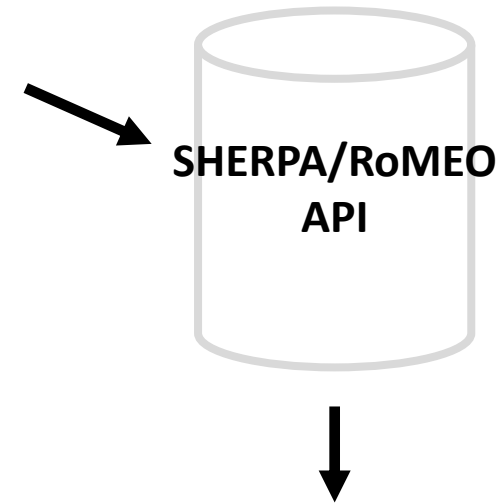
<sup>2</sup> Hadley Wickham (2017). httr: Tools for Working with URLs and HTTP. R package version 1.3.1. <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=httr>

<sup>3</sup> Stefan Milton Bache and Hadley Wickham (2014). magrittr: A Forward-Pipe Operator for R. R package version 1.5. <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=magrittr>

<sup>4</sup> Duncan Temple Lang and the CRAN Team (2018). XML: Tools for Parsing and Generating XML Within R and S-Plus. R package version 3.98-1.11. <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=XML>

# Step 1: Get publisher name and ISSN from SHERPA/RoMEO

<i>unique_ID</i>	<i>title_of_contribution</i>	<i>normalized_journal_title</i>	<i>issn*</i>



<i>journal_title</i>	<i>issn</i>	<i>zetoc_pub</i>	<i>romeo_pub</i>

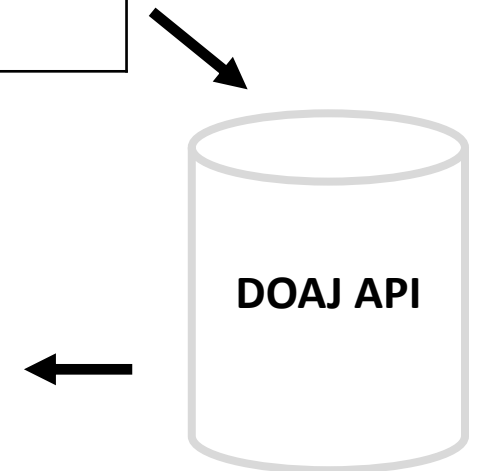
<http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/apimanual.php?la=en&flDnum=|&mode=simple>

\* In the data we obtained from faculty reporting, there were few ISSNs. If no record was found in SHERPA/RoMEO search and ISSN was present in faculty data, these values were merged to use for the next step

## Step 2: Check to see if journal is indexed in DOAJ

<i>unique_ID</i>	<i>title_of_contribution</i>	<i>normalized_journal_title</i>	<i>issn*</i>	<i>zetoc_pub</i>	<i>romeo_pub</i>

<i>journal_title</i>	<i>plagiarism_detection</i>	<i>plagiarism_detection_url</i>	<i>apc_url</i>	<i>journal_url</i>



# Results of R script

- R script processed 944 records in 4.333 minutes
- Reduced the number of records that required manual verification to 345 (313 records not in SHERPA/RoMEO and 32 returned multiple matches)

# Limitations

- Journals that are not in SHERPA/RoMEO database that are indexed in DOAJ – our script misses these
- The multiple matches issue requires potentially unnecessary manual verification
- There are likely more comprehensive sources for ISSN and publisher information, such as ISSN API – but these are often not publicly accessible

# Hand Coding

Data Summary	Count
Annual Review entries	2882
Eligible items	1101
Articles	944
Conference papers	157
Unique journals	703
Articles to hand code	345
Conference papers to hand code	157

## Trusted

- Pay-walled journal
- OA journal indexed in DOAJ
- Known publisher
- No-fee OA journal
- For-fee OA journal published by known university
- For-fee OA journal published by known scholarly society

## Untrusted (if none of the above and ...)

- Journal makes false claims about one of the following:
  - **Indexing**
  - scholarly society/university sponsorship
  - origin or scope of literature (“American”)

# Summary of Results

Trusted?	Items
Yes	1079
No (appears to be disreputable)	15 (14 articles + 1 conference)
Maybe	5
Ineligible	2 (preprints)

No evidence of dishonesty, but below threshold for “trusted”

**98%**  
trusted publications (1079/1101)  
  
OR  
  
**1.4%**  
disreputable publications (15/1101)



# Difficult Decisions

(The following examples *were not* selected from the data set.)

**SCIEDU®**  
Sciedu Press

Journal of Curriculum and Teaching

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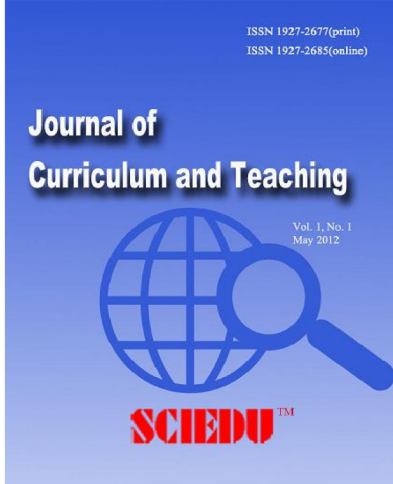
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ISSN 1927-2677(print)  
ISSN 1927-2685(online)

Journal of  
Curriculum and Teaching

Vol. 1, No. 1  
May 2012

SCIEDU™

Statistics

2018 Q3: Articles Received: 15; Accepted: 12; Rejected: 5; Published: 7; Retracted: 0

2018 Q2: Articles Received: 42; Accepted: 21; Rejected: 15; Published: 7; Retracted: 0

2018 Q1: Articles Received: 29; Accepted: 19; Rejected: 9; Published: 13; Retracted: 0

2017: Articles Received: 83; Accepted: 44; Rejected: 35; Published: 23; Retracted: 0

2016: Articles Received: 90; Accepted: 46; Rejected: 39; Published: 27; Retracted: 0

2015: Articles Received: 65; Accepted: 41; Rejected: 13; Published: 28; Retracted: 0

2014: Articles Received: 46; Accepted: 37; Rejected: 9; Published: 24; Retracted: 0

2013: Articles Received: 53; Accepted: 29; Rejected: 14; Published: 31; Retracted: 0

OPEN JOURNAL SYSTEMS

Google-based Impact Factor (2017): 0.7  
h-index (January 2018): 7  
i10-index (January 2018): 7  
h5-index (January 2018): 7  
h5-median(January 2018): 7

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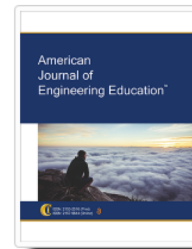
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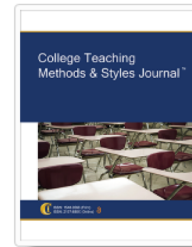
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ISSN 2156-7794 (print); ISSN 2157-9636 (online)

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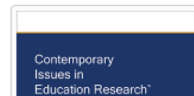
### College Teaching Methods & Styles Journal (CTMS)

**Published 2005 to 2010**

ISSN 1548-9566 (print), ISSN 2157-880X (online)

The College Teaching Methods & Styles Journal concerned all areas of college-level teaching methods ...

[View Journal](#) | [Current Issue](#) | [Submissions](#)



### Contemporary Issues in Education Research (CIER)

**Published since 2008**




### International Business & Economics Research Journal (IBER)




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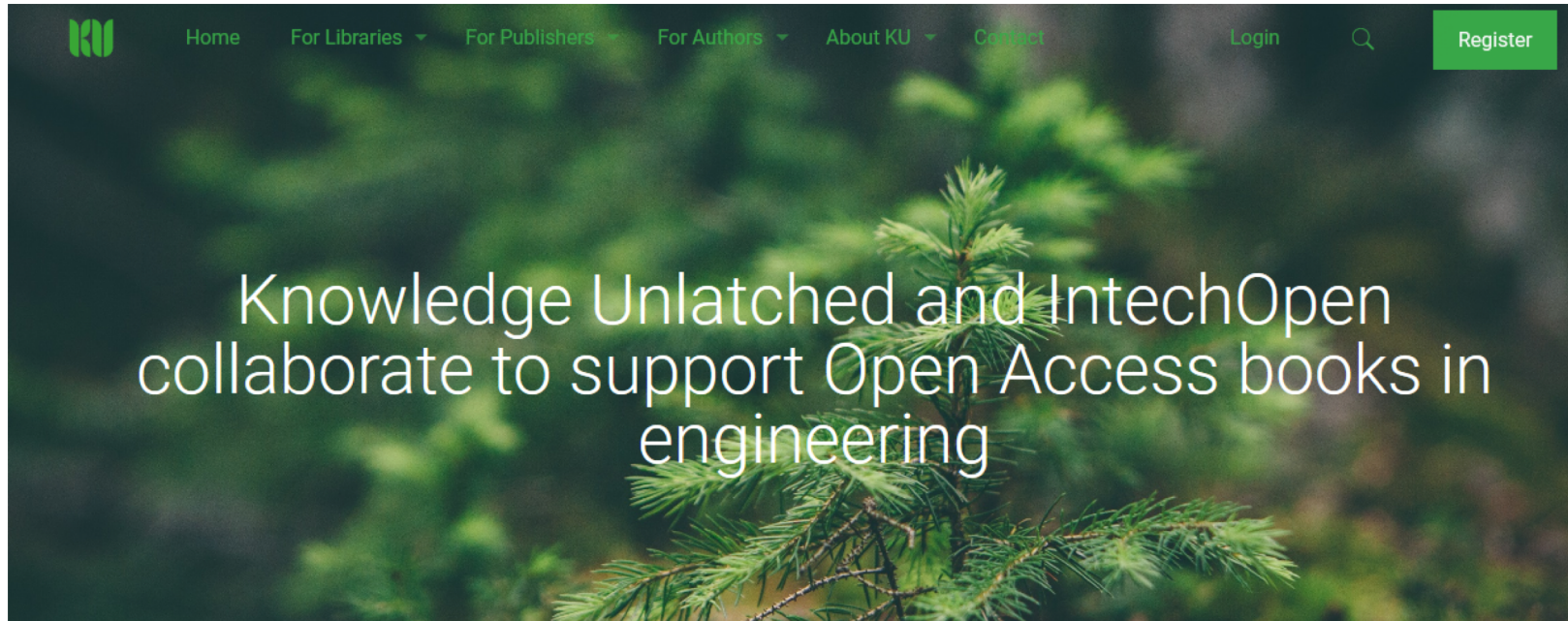
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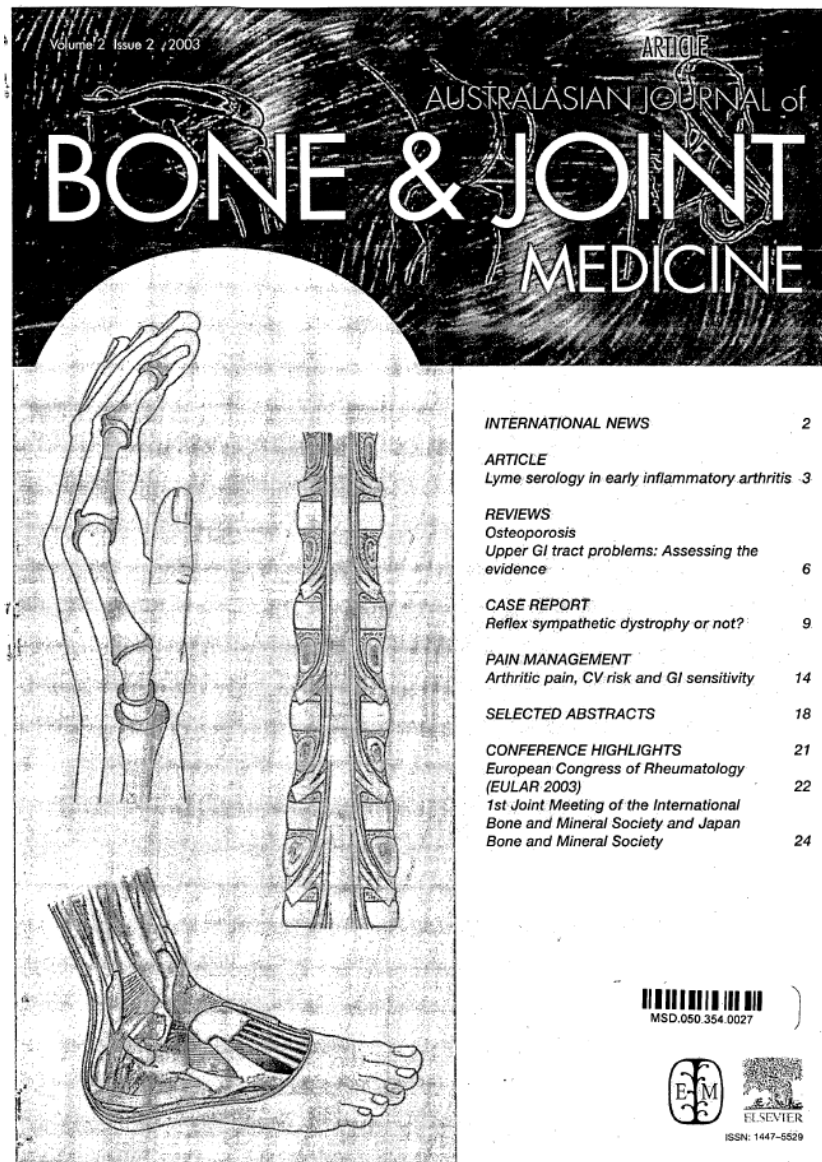
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Original article

## Diagnostic usefulness of routine Lyme serology in patients with early inflammatory arthritis in nonendemic areas

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### Abstract

**Objective.** – To evaluate the diagnostic usefulness of routine Lyme serology in patients who live in nonendemic areas and present with early inflammatory joint disease.

**Methods.** – All patients admitted to a rheumatology department of a nonendemic area of France for evaluation of joint disease with onset within the last year. The evaluation included a medical history, a thorough physical examination, an electrocardiogram, and an ELISA for antibodies to *Borrelia burgdorferi*.

**Results.** – We included 90 patients, 51 women and 39 men, with a mean age of  $48.1 \pm 17.9$  years. Mean duration of joint symptoms was  $4.3 \pm 4.3$  months, with a median of 3 months. A patient (1.1%) reported a tick bite and no patients had a history of erythema migrans. Lyme serology was negative in all 90 patients.

**Conclusion.** – These results do not support routine Lyme serology in patients living in nonendemic areas and presenting with early inflammatory joint disease. However, Lyme serology remains appropriate in patients with features suggestive of Lyme disease. Given that Lyme disease is amenable to curative treatment, a larger study is in order to confirm our findings.

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**Keywords:** Arthritis; Polyarthritis; Lyme disease; *Borrelia burgdorferi*; Diagnosis

<https://www.worldcat.org/title/australasian-journal-of-bone-joint-medicine/oclc/223430052>

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